

# IN CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, we have seen how climate change has made natural disasters, such as hurricanes and tornadoes, more frequent and much more severe.

This is not the time to debate climate change. This is the time to act on it. And the best time to act, the best time to prepare for natural disasters is before they occur.

September is National Preparedness Month. It is the perfect time to celebrate the brave men and women who respond when a crisis happens and the perfect time to coordinate our emergency response efforts.

We need to be ready for the next emergency before it strikes. As chairman of the Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Subcommittee of the Committee on Homeland Security, I want FEMA and other Federal agencies to have the power and resources to coordinate relief efforts before, during, and after an emergency happens.

We do not have to relive the horrors of Hurricanes Andrew, Katrina, and Maria. Let us be proactive about the next disaster instead of waiting until it strikes.

□ 1545

# BRINGING INDUSTRY AND EDUCATION TOGETHER IN PENNSYLVANIA'S 12TH DISTRICT

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, our Nation's economic prosperity and national security interests are secured due to energy-rich districts like Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District.

That is why, during the recent August district work month, while in Montrose, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, I visited Cabot Oil & Gas, one of Pennsylvania's largest natural gas producers.

On any given day, Pennsylvania's 12th District is well positioned to help make the United States a net energy exporter by producing as much as 10 percent of the country's natural gas. Equally important is the great partner that energy producers have become with local governments and educational institutions.

As a member of the House Education and Labor Committee, I know the importance of bringing industry and education together to enhance workforce development, especially in rural areas. That is why it made me proud to see Cabot partnering with Lackawanna College School of Petroleum and Natural Gas as a means to provide career-ready job skills in the natural gas industry. Thanks to this partnership,

students are able to make family-sustaining wages and have a career in an industry that will remain in Pennsylvania for generations.

Congress should use this example, set in Susquehanna County and throughout Pennsylvania's 12th Congressional District, for how partnerships with private-sector job creators can lead to a better future.

# COMMENDING EAGLE THEATER IN HAMMONTON, NEW JERSEY

(Mr. VAN DREW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VAN DREW. Madam Speaker, the New Jersey Fringe Festival is hosted by the local Eagle Theater in Hammonton in southern New Jersey.

The festival is a driver in the cultural boom taking place in this town. The Eagle Theater is south Jersey's only year-round professional Equity theater and is dedicated to redefining regional theater through innovation, enlightened production techniques, and the development of eclectic theatrics.

The Eagle Theater originally opened its doors in 1914 as a silent movie theater and was a playhouse from 1914 until 1944. Since then, the theater has built itself to be an award-winning, culturally diverse epicenter boasting state-of-the-art technical equipment and hosting a core of theming artists dedicated to experimental storytelling through medium-advancing technology.

It enriches south Jersey culturally and creatively, and I commend them for what they do. South Jersey is proud of them; New Jersey is proud of them; and the United States of America is proud of them.

Congratulations.

# RECOGNIZING CHATHAM COUNTY'S BILL LEWIS UPON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill Lewis, who retired on Monday, August 12, after nearly 40 years working in the Chatham County judicial system.

Chatham County's chief assistant public defender, Mr. LEWIS found his calling in 1980 after trying out a number of other careers first. The combination of helping people while also being able to stand up, arguing in the courtroom, drew him to the career.

And it paid off. In his own words, Mr. LEWIS loved every day of his job, and he liked defending people's freedom rather than fighting over their money.

It also paid off for Chatham County because of Mr. LEWIS' exceptional reputation for being a calming voice in the courtroom and his care of his clients.

During his tenure, he earned some of the most prestigious awards in the Savannah area: the Robbie Robinson Award for his success in public defense and the Thomas More Award for his religious affiliation and commitment to humanity.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. LEWIS for his service to our community. His work will be missed.

# CONSTITUENTS WANT CONGRESS TO WORK TOGETHER

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, as my colleagues and I come back into legislative session this week, I would like to take this opportunity to share what I learned from the 12th District of Georgia during the recent district work period.

Like many of my colleagues, I spent the last 6 weeks meeting with constituents, and I hope my colleagues got the same earful I did. Our constituents want to know why Congress can't work together to deliver results for the American people.

In fact, just last night, I hosted a telephone town hall, and constituents said that the two top issues they want Congress to focus on before the end of the year are healthcare and immigration reform.

How do we solve these problems when Democrats are determined to ensure that our President is not successful? It is not fair to the American people to put politics ahead of the American people's interests.

We have a President who is willing and eager to work with us on many issues, including healthcare and immigration, so let's get to work. The American people won't accept anything less.

# PROTECT PATIENTS FROM SURPRISE MEDICAL BILLS

(Mr. SPANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SPANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to announce a bill I recently introduced in the House, the Protecting Patients from Surprise Medical Bills Act, which is a companion bill to Senator SCOTT's recent legislation.

No one seeking medical care should ever have to worry about incurring unexpected, crippling expenses, especially when they have done everything right by obtaining health insurance. That is why then-Governor RICK SCOTT and I worked to pass a bill in Florida to solve this issue.

This law takes patients completely out of the billing process, protecting patients from surprise medical bills for emergency services and for mistakenly seeing an out-of-network healthcare provider at an in-network hospital.

This bill has experienced widespread success in Florida, which is why we are